

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 3, 8-24 have been canceled without prejudice.

1. (currently amended) An apparatus to support a stent during a process of coating the stent with a coating substance, comprising: a member ~~to support a stent during the coating process~~including a plurality of pores disposed on a surface of the member, wherein a section of the member includes a porous surface~~the pores~~ capable of receiving ~~thea~~ a coating substance during ~~thea~~ the coating process, wherein the pores have an open end and a closed end so as to provide a closed pore system on the surface of the member.

2. (original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the pores have a diameter between about 0.2 microns and about 50 microns.

Claim 3 (canceled).

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~3~~1, wherein the ~~first or second~~ member is made from a metallic material ~~selected from a group of 300 Series stainless steel, 400 Series stainless steel, titanium, tantalum, niobium, zirconium, hafnium, and cobalt chromium alloys.~~

5. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim ~~3~~1, wherein the ~~first or second~~ member is made from a polymeric material.

6. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein the polymeric material is selected from ~~at~~the group consisting of regenerated cellulose, cellulose acetate, polyacetal, polyetheretherketone, polyesters, highly hydrolyzed polyvinyl alcohol, nylon, polyphenylenesulfide, polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate, polypropylene, and combinations thereof.

7. (currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 31, wherein the ~~first or second~~ member is made from a ceramic material ~~selected from a group of zirconia, silica, glass, sintered calcium phosphates, calcium sulfate, and titanium dioxide.~~

Claims 8-24 (canceled).

Please add the following New Claims:

25. (new) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the metallic material is selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, titanium, tantalum, niobium, zirconium, hafnium, and cobalt chromium alloys.

26. (new) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the ceramic material is selected from the group consisting of zirconia, silica, glass, sintered calcium phosphates, calcium sulfate, and titanium dioxide.

27. (new) A mounting assembly to support a stent during the application of a coating composition onto the stent, comprising a first element to make contact with one side of a stent, and a second element to make contact with another side of the stent, wherein the first or second element includes a layer to absorb a coating composition that comes into contact with the layer during an application process.

28. (new) The mounting assembly of Claim 27, wherein the layer is a sponge.

29. (new) A support assembly to support a stent during a process of coating the stent with a composition, comprising a member to support a stent, wherein the member includes an absorbing layer disposed on the surface of the member for at least partially absorbing some of the composition that comes into contact with the absorbing layer.

30. (new) A support assembly to support a stent during a process of coating the stent with a composition, comprising a member to support a stent, wherein the member is made from an absorbent material for at least partially absorbing some of the composition that comes into contact with the member.

31. (new) A support assembly to support a stent during a process of coating the stent with a composition, comprising a member to make contact with a stent, wherein the member includes an absorbing layer disposed on the surface of the member for at least partially absorbing some of the composition that comes into contact with the absorbing layer.

32. (new) A support assembly to support a stent during a process of coating the stent with a composition, comprising a member to make contact with a stent, wherein the member is made from an absorbent material for at least partially absorbing some of the composition that comes into contact with the member.